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ABSTRACT

This post-doctoral fellowship program, under the sponsorship of the Commission on Colleges, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, was designed to provide a year of intensive study of the institutional self-study process and research design and methodology in higher education. The activities were divided into three overlapping phases and included the following experiences: 1) serving as observer-consultant participant to 35 senior colleges and universities and five junior colleges in nine states, 2) serving as observer-participant with consultative and/or visiting evaluative teams to 10 institutions, 3) attending and participating in approximately 20 professional meetings and conferences relating to the Commission on Colleges, 4) taking part in individual or group sessions with institutional research directors of most of the colleges and universities in the South; 5) presenting papers at three meetings of professional organizations, including the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association. (MBM)

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Final Report

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POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM IN EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH

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Gordon W. Sweet, Project Director
Lamore J. Carter, Post-Doctoral Fellow

Southern Association of Colleges
and Schools

Atlanta, Georgia
September 20, 1970

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

Office of Education
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Program Objective

This Post-Doctoral Fellowship Program was designed to afford one Fellow (Dr. Lamore J. Carter) a full year of intensive study of the institutional self-study process and research design and methodology in higher education. It was expected that this program of guided experience under sponsorship of the Commission on Colleges, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, would broaden and sharpen the Fellow's knowledge of educational research design and analysis and thereby make him better able to undertake and evaluate research problems.

Method

The principal types of activities engaged in by the Post-Doctoral Fellow were as follows:

1. Institutional visits as observer-participant for the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in monitoring the self-study process.

2. Participation in planning and evaluating research projects related to institutional self-study and effectiveness.

3. Sharing roles in designating and executing research projects in junior and senior colleges and universities in the region.

4. Graduate study at a major university.

5. Independent study with available and competent assistance from many very knowledgeable officials of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and its member institutions.

The activities described above were done in three overlapping phases. The phases were as follows:

Phase I - (The period of September 1, 1969, through January 31, 1970)

During Phase I the Post-Doctoral Fellow was based at Grambling College, Grambling, Louisiana, where he engaged in the following study/work activities under guidance by the Commission on Colleges:

1. Serving as observer-participant in, and planning and initiating several significant institutional research studies relevant to the on-going Grambling College Institutional Self-Study. In the planning and initiation of an institutional research project, the Fellow utilized knowledge and experience gained as a result of visits and working sessions with directors of institutional research at other colleges and universities of the state and region.

2. Accompanying and serving as observer-participant with Visitation Committees of the Commission on Colleges, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, as they studied and evaluated the self-study documents and processes at member institutions. The number and selection of institutions to visit and the details of the observer-participant role were determined by Mr. Gordon W. Sweet, Executive Secretary, Commission on Colleges, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

3. Attending selected professional meetings and visiting selected research centers with programs relevant to objectives of the training proposal.

4. Joining with the research staff on Louisiana Polytechnic Institute and Northwestern Louisiana State University in developing programs for improving the effectiveness of college and university programs in the region. (This amounted to continuing an activity in which the Fellow had been engaged prior to the fellowship year.)

5. Doing as much independent study as time permitted.

Phase II (The period of February 1 through May, 1970)

During Phase II, the Post-Doctoral Fellow was based in the office of the Commission on Colleges, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Atlanta, Georgia. The primary activities of the Fellow entailed extensive study of on-going institutional self-studies at various colleges being evaluated by visiting committees of the Commission on Colleges. The Fellow was guided in this activity by the Executive Secretary of the Commission on Colleges, who introduced the Fellow on various colleges and university campuses and provided for his observer-participant learning role in the evaluative study and deliberations regarding institutional self-study and accreditation on campuses.

Between institutional visits, the Fellow continued guided study of institutional research methodology and the accrediting process in an office provided him at the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Atlanta, Georgia.

In addition to the travel and work with the Commission on Colleges, the Fellow assisted in the design and initiation of three research projects for the Commission on Colleges.

Phase III (The period of June 1 through August 31, 1970)

Phase III the following two types of training activities were designed to hone the Fellow's skills and broaden his knowledge of research:

1. He completed collection of data and planned the analysis of data relative to three studies for the Commission on Colleges.

2. He enrolled in the Graduate School at Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia, where he audited two courses in statistics and research data and profited from several seminars and many personal contacts with the members of the Graduate faculty.

In summary, the three-phased activities entailed the following total of experiences:

1. Observer-consultant participant to thirty-five (35) senior colleges and universities and five (5) junior colleges in nine of the eleven (11) states comprising the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

2. Observer participant with consultative and/or visiting evaluative teams to ten (10) institutions.

3. Attendance and participation in at least 20 professional meetings and/or conferences relative to affairs of the Commission on Colleges.

4. Had individual and/or group sessions or contact with institutional research directors of most colleges and universities of the South.

5. Presented papers at three meetings of professional organizations, including the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Personnel and Facilities

The project director was Mr. Gordon W. Sweet, Executive Secretary, Commission on Colleges, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Mr. Sweet had the primary responsibility of (1) acquainting the Fellow with the activities of the Commission on Colleges as they relate to institutional self-study and (2) introducing the Fellow as an observer participant on campuses of institutions being visited by representatives of the Commission on Colleges. During the entire course of the training period, Mr. Sweet offered consultation and advice regarding the relevance of the Fellow's planned activities to the broadening and sharpening of knowledge and skills pertinent to institutional research.

Other personnel of the Commission on Colleges, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools who contributed to the Fellow's program were as follows:

Dr. Joffre T. Whisenton
Director of Special Studies
Commission on Colleges

Mrs. Virginia Darnell
Assistant Executive Secretary
Commission on Colleges

Dr. John Barker, Associate
Executive Secretary
Commission on Colleges

Mr. Barry Mellinger
Assistant Executive Secretary
Commission on Colleges

In addition to personnel of the Commission on Colleges, the several informative individual sessions with Dr. Felix Robb, Executive Director of Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, were of benefit to the Fellow.

The Fellow was provided an office with adequate furnishings and typewriter. There was provided some office supplies and some clerical help for work that was of obvious benefit to the Commission on Colleges.

The Fellow had access to the library of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and other sources of documents pertinent to institutional self-study, accreditation and research.

Appendices

There are appended several monthly activity schedules which indicate the Fellow's involvement during part of the fellowship year.

M A R C H
ACTIVITY SCHEDULE
for Dr. Lamore J. Carter

March 2-3

Grambling College, Grambling, La. ~~to~~ planning with Dr. Arlynne L. Cheers for a research paper presentation at 54th Annual Meeting of American Educational Research Association in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

March 4

Attending ACT Workshop regarding institutional research, Southern University Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

March 5-6

Attending 54th Annual Meeting of AERA, Minneapolis, Minnesota, where I will present a research paper at 1:00 p.m. on March 6.

March 9

SACS office work relative to research proposals to be presented to Commission on Colleges on March 13. Meet with Dr. Robb regarding Clearinghouse Project.

March 10

Depart Atlanta 9:45 a.m. EA 360
Arrive New York 12:25 p.m.
Staying: St. John University, Brooklyn, N.Y.
Business: Personal interview with administrators
Depart New York 6:35 p.m. UA 351
Arrive Atlanta: 8:50 p.m.

March 11-13

SACS office activity of independent study and class work. Present three proposed research projects to SACS at 10:00 a.m. and/or 1:30 p.m. Friday, March 13.

March 16

SACS office activity until 1:00 p.m. Conference at Georgia State University at 2:00 p.m.

March 17-20

SACS office activity and class work. Conference at Emory University but date not specified.

March 22-26,

SACS office activity and class work

March 27

SACS Holiday ----Attend Conference at SCHC, Atlanta

March 30-31

Personal Conference, Fresno State University, Fresno, California and returning to Atlanta Tuesday evening 3/31

Schedule of Activity
June, 1970

Lamore J. Carter

June 1 - 6

SACS Office Monday and Tuesday and Thurs. all day; part of Wednesday and Friday involved with Studies #1, 2, and 3. Other periods in personal study and affairs. (Frequent evening work in SACS office.)

June 8 - 13

Personnel Training Conference, June 7-9 at Cabana Motor Hotel, Atlanta. SACS office Wednesday. Program evaluation visit to U. S. Office of Education Thursday and Friday, June 12-13. SACS office Saturday morning. (6-13)

June 15-20

Registration for Summer term, Emory University 6-15 and class daily thereafter. Some of each day and or evening in SACS office working on Studies #1, 2, and 3. (Possibly out all day Wednesday 6-17.

June 22-27

SACS Summe r Conference 6-21 thru 6-23. Royal Coach Inn, Atlanta. (Plan to attend this and attend classes at Emory U. SACS office 6-24-27 part of each day with possible exception of 6-24. Evening work in SACS office.

June 29 - July 4

Classes and SACS office 6-29 and 6-30. Planned trip to Prairie View A&M College and Bishop College. Departing Atlanta on evening of 6-30. July 3 and 4 are holidays.

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITY
(Tentative)
July, 1970

Lamore J. Carter

July 1-3

SACS Office and Emory Classes on July 1 and 2. (Trip to Louisiana afternoon of 7-2-70, for July 4th weekend and conference at Grambling College on July 6.)

July 6-10

Conference with President and Vice President of Grambling College, July 6. Return to Atlanta and SACS Office morning of July 7. Out most of Wednesday (7/8/70) with classes and other work at Emory University. SACS Office and classes on Thursday. Trip to Washington, D. C., on Friday, July 10 for meeting with official regarding a graduate degree program/project at Texas Southern University.

July 13-17

Monday thru Thursday in SACS Office part of each day but out much of Wednesday. Tentatively planned trip to Texas Southern University, leaving Thursday (7/16) evening and returning Sunday, July 19.

July 20-24

SACS Office and Emory University study activities daily. Out of office most of Wednesday, July 22 involved in class activity.

July 27-31

SACS Office and Emory University classes Monday, July 27. Join Advisory Committee Visiting Louisiana Polytechnic Institute, July 28-29. Return to SACS Office Thursday morning, July 30. SACS Office and classes, Friday, July 31.

Lamore J. Carter

Schedule of Activity
(Tentative)

August, 1970

August 3-7

Scheduled to depart Atlanta at 6:30 a.m. for Washington, D. C. Conference with Peace Corps Officials, passport/ visas acquisition and scheduled trip to Africa leaving Tuesday, August 4. Visit Dakar, Senegal one day enroute to Manrovia, Liberia. Will visit the University of Liberia in Monrovia and also Covington College in Northern Liberia.

August 10-14

This week in Liberia and Uganda, Visiting elementary and secondary schools and universities. Will plan and "certify" twenty one (21) semester hours of graduate course work for Peace Corps interns who will be coming to these African Countries beginning in December, 1970 and will take course-work at African universities. Plan to depart Africa from Monravia on Saturday, August 15, 1970 and arrive at SACS office Monday, August 17.

August 17-21

This week in Atlanta SACS office closing out work of the year.

August 24-31

Visit Houston, Texas and Texas Southern University, 8/23-8/28.